

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following at page 3 between lines 17 and 18:

--Thus, in one aspect, the invention is an image processing apparatus, comprising input means for inputting multivalued image information, conversion means for performing multivalued processing on the input multivalued image information and converting the information into data representing a number of print dots for each pixel, counting means for counting the number of print dots for each region made up of a plurality of pixels, and print dot layout determination means for determining a print dot layout in a region of interest in accordance with a count value of print dots in peripheral region around the region of interest.--